

Please amend the application as follows:

In the Claims

*Please amend Claim 14.*

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14. (Amended) The computer program product of Claim 5 further comprising program code that:  
revokes membership of the node in the network cluster if the node ceases to have access to the shareable storage device.
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*Amendments to the claims are indicated in the attached "Marked Up Version of Amendments" (page i).*

*Please add new Claims 33-50*

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33. (New) A method for managing membership of nodes in a computer network cluster, the method comprising:  
defining a shareable storage device to store data for a computer network, the shareable storage device being accessible by each member node in a computer network cluster; and  
regardless of network connectivity, denying membership in the computer network cluster to a node if the node is unable to access the shareable storage device.
34. (New) The method of Claim 33 further comprising:  
granting membership to the node if the node has access to the shareable storage device.
35. (New) The method of Claim 34 further comprising:  
revoking membership of the node in the network cluster if the node ceases to have access to the shareable storage device.

36. (New) The method of Claim 33 further comprising:  
ceasing operation of the network cluster if no node has access to the shareable storage device.
37. (New) The method of Claim 34 wherein granting membership comprises, from the node, accessing a message location in the shareable storage device.
38. (New) The method of Claim 37 wherein the message location identifies the cluster by identifying at least one physical storage device from the shareable storage device that is shared by the cluster member nodes.
39. (New) The method of Claim 38 wherein granting membership comprises accessing each identified physical storage device.
40. (New) A computer program product for managing membership of nodes in a computer network cluster, the computer program product comprising a computer usable medium including program code for:  
defining a shareable storage device to store data for a network cluster; and  
denying membership in the network cluster to a node if the node has no access to the shareable storage device regardless of network connectivity of the node.
41. (New) The computer program product of Claim 40 further comprising program code for:  
granting membership to the node if the node has access to the shareable storage device.

42. (New) The computer program product of Claim 40 further comprises program code for:
- ceasing operation of the network cluster if no node has access to the shareable storage device.
43. (New) A system for managing membership of nodes in a computer network cluster, comprising:
- a network infrastructure for supporting a plurality of nodes in a network cluster;
  - a storage device separated from the network infrastructure and interconnectable to a plurality of nodes;
  - a node interconnected with the storage device; and
  - a manager mechanism to grant membership in the network cluster to the node based on the node having access to the storage device regardless of network connectivity of the node.
44. (New) The system of Claim 43 wherein the manager mechanism:
- grants membership to the node if the node has access to the shareable storage device.
45. (New) The system of Claim 44 wherein the manager mechanism:
- revokes membership of the node in the network cluster if the node ceases to have access to the shareable storage device.
46. (New) The system of Claim 45 wherein the manager mechanism includes a message location in the shareable storage device accessed by the node being granted membership in the network cluster.
47. (New) The system of Claim 46 wherein the message location identifies the cluster by identifying at least one physical storage device from the shareable storage device that is shared by the cluster member nodes.

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48. (New) The system of Claim 47 wherein each identified physical storage device is accessible by the node being granted membership in the network cluster.
49. (New) The system of Claim 43 wherein the manager mechanism:  
ceases operation of the network cluster if no node has access to the shareable storage device.
50. (New) A system for managing membership of nodes in a computer network cluster, the system comprising:  
a means for defining a shareable storage device to store data for a computer network, the shareable storage device being accessible by each member node in a computer network cluster; and  
a means for denying membership in the computer network cluster to a node if the node has no access to the shareable storage device regardless of network connectivity of the node.
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